IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended): A multimetal oxide material of the formula I

$$[A]_p[B]_q[C]_r \qquad (I)$$

where

A is $Mo_{12}V_aX^1{}_bX^2{}_cX^3{}_dX^4{}_eX^5{}_fX^6{}_gO_x$,

B is $X^7{}_1Cu_hH_iO_y$,

C is $X^8{}_1Sb_jH_kO_z$,

X^1 is W, Nb, Ta, Cr and/or Ce,

X^2 is Cu, Ni, Co, Fe, Mn and/or Zn,

X^3 is Sb and/or Bi,

X^4 is Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs and/or H,

X^5 is Mg, Ca, Sr and/or Ba,

X^6 is Si, Al, Ti and/or Zr,

X^7 is Mo, W, V, Nb and/or Ta,

X^8 is Cu, Ni, Zn, Co, Fe, Cd, Mn, Mg, Ca, Sr and/or Ba,

a is from 1 to 8,

b is from 0.2 to 5,

c is from 0 to 23,

d is from 0 to 50,

e is from 0 to 2,

f is from 0 to 5,

g is from 0 to 50

h is from 0.3 to 2.5,

i is from 0 to 2,

j is from ~~0.1~~ 0.05 to 50,

k is from 0 to 50,

x, y and z are numbers which are determined by the valency and frequency of the elements other than oxygen in (I) and

p, q and r are numbers other than zero, with the proviso that the ratio p/(q+r) is from 20:1 to 1:20, and the ratio q/r is from 20:1 to 1:20,

which contains the moiety $[A]_p$ in the form of three-dimensional regions A having the chemical composition

A $Mo_{12}V_aX^1{}_bX^2{}_cX^3{}_dX^4{}_eX^5{}_fX^6{}_gO_{x,,}$

the moiety $[B]_q$ in the form of three-dimensional regions B having the chemical composition

B $X^7{}_1Cu_hH_iO_y$ and

the moiety $[C]_r$ in the form of three-dimensional regions C having the chemical composition

C $X^8{}_1Sb_jH_kO_z$

the regions A, B and C being distributed relative to one another in the same way as in a mixture comprising finely divided A, finely divided B and finely divided C.

Claim 2 (Original): A process for the preparation of a multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1, wherein a multimetal oxide material B

$X^7{}_1Cu_hH_iO_y$ (B)

as starting material 1 and a multimetal oxide material C

$X^8{}_1Sb_jH_kO_z$ (C)

as starting material 2 are preformed separately in finely divided form and the starting materials 1 and 2 are then brought into intimate contact with suitable sources of the elemental constituents of the multimetal oxide material A

$Mo_{12}V_aX^1{}_bX^2{}_cX^3{}_dX^4{}_eX^5{}_fX^6{}_gO_x$, (A)

in the desired ratio, and a resulting dry blend is calcined at from 250 to 500°C.

Claim 3 (Previously Amended): A process for the gas-phase catalytic oxidative preparation of acrylic acid from acrolein, which comprises carrying out the oxidative preparation with a multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1 as the catalyst in contact with acrolein.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (New): A process for the preparation of a multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1, wherein a multimetal oxide material B

$X^7{}_1Cu_hH_iO_y$ (B)

as starting material 1 and a multimetal oxide material C

$X^8{}_1Sb_jH_kO_z$ (C)

as starting material 2 are preformed in association with one another in finely divided form and the starting materials 1 and 2 are then brought into intimate contact with suitable sources of the elemental constituents of the multimetal oxide material A

$Mo_{12}V_aX^1{}_bX^2{}_cX^3{}_dX^4{}_eX^5{}_fX^6{}_gO_x$, (A)

in the desired ratio, and a resulting dry blend is calcined at from 250 to 500°C.